

# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
December 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 12



**439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.**



## Remember holiday safety, kindness

What do the holidays mean for you - good food, time with friends and family, travel?

As we approach this holiday season, I ask you to think about a few other things as well. The first is holiday safety. Safety is often the last thing we consider when we are planning for and enjoying all the events that occur during the season. However, as trained Air Force reservists, it should be one of the first. We've all seen the videos depicting the results of poor decorating choices. Trees that are too dry, faulty wiring, and unattended stoves are recipes for disaster and ruined holidays.

Another sure way to ruin your holidays is to overindulge in alcohol. Many lives have been destroyed or changed forever by having one too many cups of spiked eggnog at a holiday party. Please, use caution and stay safe.

The second thing I ask you to think of this season is giving. I know that your holiday list is long and you probably think it is long enough. However, please add to it the members of your community who are less fortunate. If you look around, there are many opportunities to give. Right here on base, we have the Angel Tree program to take care of our reservists who are in need.

Also our neighbor, the city of Chicopee, has their annual Stuff the Stocking campaign to help people in need in the local community. I'm sure the town you live in has similar events that could use your help.

Finally, the 439<sup>th</sup> still has many of our folks deployed around the world this season. Please keep those people and their families in your thoughts. Also, if you can, give their families a call or send a card to let them know we are here for them and we appreciate the sacrifices they make.

In closing, my wife Kim and I want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season!



by Col. Wade Farris  
439th Airlift Wing commander

## Briefs

### UTA schedule lists dates for fiscal year remainder

The following is the UTA schedule for the 439th AW for the remainder of Fiscal 2004:

	A	B
<b>December</b>	6-7	NO B UTA
<b>January</b>	10-11	24-25
<b>February</b>	7-8	21-22
<b>March</b>	6-7	20-21
<b>April</b>	3-4	17-18
<b>May</b>	1-2	15-16
<b>June</b>	12-13	26-27
<b>July</b>	10-11	24-25
<b>August</b>	7-8	21-22
<b>September</b>	11-12	25-26

### Family Support Center begins angel program

The Family Support Center's Christmas Angel Tree Program opened on Nov. 1 for all 439<sup>th</sup> AW assigned personnel (reservists and Department of Defense civilians) and their families who are in need of some additional Christmas support.

Sponsors interested in adopting an "Angel" for Christmas will be provided the angel's gender, age, and a request for a special gift. To ensure program anonymity, the center staff will be the liaison between sign-ups and sponsors.

All interested members and families are encouraged to call the center at Ext. 3024 or 866-690-2161 (toll-free) to sign up.

### Children's party set for Dec. 13 at fitness center

The annual Children's Christmas Party is set for Dec. 13 from 2-4 p.m. in the base fitness center. It is for children ages 1-10.

Sign-up is required by Dec. 5. Parents should call the fitness center staff at Ext. 3958 to sign up their children.

### Cover photo

**TROTting FOR TURKEY --**  
**Brent French, Dirk Dufresne and**  
**Mike Guerin run Nov. 2 in the**  
**annual Westover Turkey Trot (see**  
**article and additional photos on**  
**Page 12).**

- photo by SrA. Tom Ouellette

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# PATRIOT

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#### 439th Airlift Wing commander

Col. Wade Farris  
Chief of Public Affairs/  
Co-editor

Gordon A. Newell  
PA Air Reserve Technician/  
Co-editor

TSgt. Andrew S. Biscoe  
Wing Public Affairs Officers  
Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger  
Maj. Wilson Camelo

#### NCOIC

SMSGt. Sandi M. Michon  
Deputy NCOIC  
MSGt. Tom N. Allocco



#### Illustrator

MSgt. W.C. Pope  
Staff

MSgt. Anne C. Ward  
TSgt. Andrew V. Reitano  
SrA. Tom R. Ouellette  
SrA. Michael S. Lanza

#### Administration

SrA. Mary E. Gallagher  
Nicole L. Lessard

439Patriot.Editor@westover.af.mil

- (413) 557-3500 -

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

# Wilson pledges commitment as new AMXS commander

## Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Maj. Mark F. Wilson pledged his commitment to leading the Patriot Wing's largest maintenance squadron after he assumed command on Oct. 29.

Wilson took command of the 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS during a ceremony held in Hangar 9.

He succeeded Col. Daniel W. Allen, who will join the 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force staff early next year as the deputy logistics group commander at Dobbins AFB, Ga. Allen had been assigned to Westover since June 1988.

"I work for you - I am dedicated to this job .. this is my home now. I want to stay here. I love all of you guys. God bless you."

Wilson has been with AMXS for two years. He recently was deployment commander for 100 Patriot Wing maintenance workers at Dover AFB helping the maintenance staff there handle the C-5 workload.

"Rest assured that every decision I make will have your best interests in mind," Wilson said, as he spoke to his troops arranged in formation in the hangar. "My door is always open."

Wilson thanked Allen for his leadership and friendship. "I will consider myself a success if I am half of the commander that you are .. this is a hard act to follow," he said.

Wilson was born in Hackensack, N. J. He graduated from Acton-Boxboro Regional High School in Acton, Mass. He was commissioned in the Air Force in 1990 after graduating from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell with a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology.

After completing the aircraft maintenance and munitions officer course at Chanute AFB, Ill., Wilson was assigned to Tyndall AFB, Fla., as the assistant officer in charge of flightline maintenance. He attended undergraduate pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss., from 1992-1993



**BOSS ON BOARD** - New AMXS commander Maj. Mark F. Wilson, right, shakes hands with SMSgt. Richard L. Coda, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS, following the Oct. 29 change of command ceremony in Hangar 9.

with a follow-on assignment to Dover AFB, Del., where he flew the C-5 until 1996 achieving the position of aircraft commander.

He returned to Columbus in 1996 as a T-37 instructor and evaluator pilot and served as the 41<sup>st</sup> Flying Training Squadron assistant operations officer.

**WILSON continued on Page 8**

## Hard work through surge, deployments pays off for AMXS

### Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

An unrelenting pace of activations, deployments, and maintenance on 16 C-5s has finally paid off for the 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS.

The squadron recently won the Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command in 2003.

AMXS led the way in the Air Force for C-5 launches in 2003, with 1,186 from Westover from February to June, according to Col. Daniel W. Allen, former squadron commander.

Allen presented the award to the AMXS members on Oct. 22 - by displaying it at sunrise to the squadron's morning shift workers at the dining facility and again during his last commander's call the same day.

The effectiveness award spotlights the squadron's efforts from Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2003. AMXS reservists have been deployed and activated for Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle, Southern/



**LAST CALL** - Col. Daniel W. Allen displays the AFRC maintenance effectiveness award to his troops during his last commander's call.

Northern Watch, Phoenix Banner, and Phoenix Magnesium.

Its members won seven wing quarterly awards in the same time period. Eleven AMXS troops also took time to volunteer painting houses in Springfield in July with

Habitat for Humanity.

An AMXS crew chief said the effectiveness award underscores a reliability that has already gained Air Force-wide recognition.

"It feels good to be called upon by the Air Force," said SrA. Jason W. Foss, a squadron member for two years. "Even the aircrews recommend Westover. They don't want to go anywhere else."

Foss was among 100 AMXS members who left for Dover AFB, Del., in September to support C-5 operations. He returned in mid-October. A second group of maintainers will serve at Dover until early December.

AMXS is one of the largest squadrons assigned to the 439<sup>th</sup> AW, with more than 300 reservists. Squadron members have been activated since February. They launched a record 1,103 C-5 flights from Westover from February through May 31, during one of the coldest New England winters on record.

"The 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS responded to a second call to active duty in February of this year with great professionalism and a strong will to support our nation," said Col. Wade Farris, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander. "They are a fantastic group of individuals who consistently work as a team to make great things happen."

AMXS competes for the Maintenance Effectiveness Award at the Air Force level in December.



# Fitness staff warms reservists up for new AF standards

Article and photos

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The Air Force's new fitness standards are quickly approaching with the new year, and fitness center officials are urging reservists to begin warming up now.

As of Jan. 1, reservists will be expected to meet what Air Force Reserve Command officials said will be similar to the new physical fitness standards of their active-duty counterparts.

"Our intention as reservists is to have the same fitness requirements as the rest of the Air Force," said Maj. Rebecca Reynolds of the command surgeon's aerospace medicine division at Headquarters AFRC. "Once our supplement to the Air Force instruction is complete, it is likely these will be the same as our active-duty counterparts."

The new standards, announced this summer by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, include a timed 1.5 mile run, push-ups, and crunches. Reservists will also have the circumferences of their abdomens measured. People unable to run because of medical reasons will still be required to participate in the current 3-mile walk requirement.

The Westover fitness staff urges everyone to take advantage of what the center offers.

"This is a quality of life issue," said James H. Kelly, fitness director with the 439<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron. "This will not only benefit the Air Force, it will benefit the reservists. The Air Force is really serious about this."

Reservists will earn component scores, which vary according to age and gender. They

will be added to obtain an overall fitness score. The score will determine if a person falls into the excellent, good, marginal or poor fitness category.

Fitness categories will determine how often a person must retest. For example, a composite score of 90 will put a person in the excellent category. However, if a person has a composite score of 70 to 74.9 then that person would be considered to be marginally fit, thus requiring a retest at six-month intervals.

A person who scores less than 70 will enter the poorly fit category, which requires a retest every three months. People rated marginal or poor will receive educational material to improve their scores.

TSgt. Neal G. Normandin, NCOIC of the fitness center, is among five reservists with the services squadron helping people get trained for the new standards.

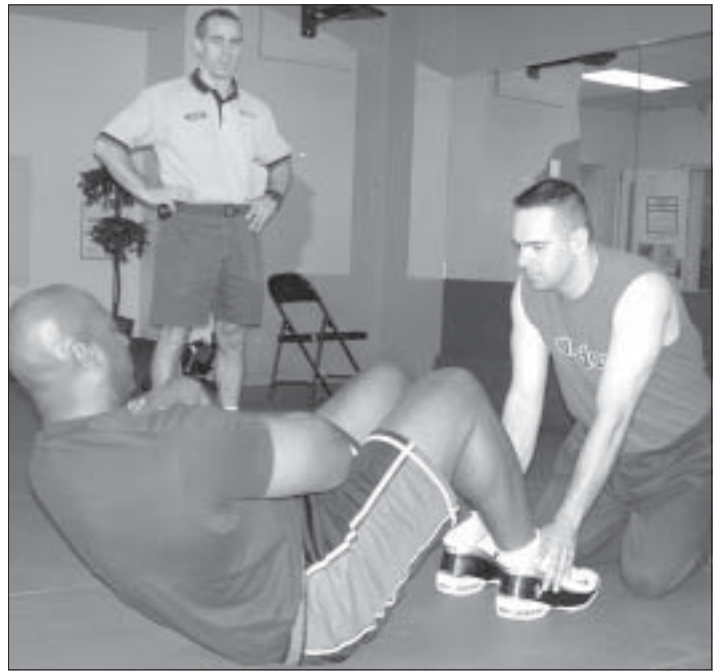
Normandin will attend a command conference in December that will address how the fitness center staff will handle the expected onslaught of reservists on UTAs, and during the week.

"That's going to be the challenge," Normandin said. "We have 2,400 people here and that's why we have another school that is going to certify people as trainers. That's coming in the January-February time frame on base, so we're really excited about that. We're also going to be having classes on how to eat right."

Normandin said everyone should take it easy when beginning their new workouts. "Start up slowly, especially if you're someone who hasn't worked out a lot," he said. "You have to take it slow. Come in and talk to us."

Rick Heller, a personal trainer at the fitness center, said the programs and equipment are in place at the fitness center for those people who need to get fit.

"The Air Force Reserve cannot make any of its reservists get fit," he said. "That responsibility is ultimately up to the reservist."



**SIT-UP STRAIGHT** - SSgt. Reginald Johnson, 439<sup>th</sup> SVS, does sit-ups with help from SSgt. Christopher Pemberthy, a reservist with the 914<sup>th</sup> SVS, Niagara Falls, N.Y. TSgt. Neal G. Normandin, NCOIC of the fitness center, monitors.

For those reservists who live too far from the convenience of the fitness center, the staff can show that proper exercising can be done at home too.

"We will show them what they can do - while getting the exact same benefits out of it - as if they came here into the fitness center," Heller said. "Everything here can be done at home."

Whether at home or at the center, the biggest hurdle for many people will be getting started, Normandin said.

"That's the big thing. It's about getting over that hump and getting the energy to show up."

The fitness center staff agreed that waiting any longer through the holiday season would make it harder to meet what's around the corner next year. "Working on it now is the key - not waiting until 2004," Heller said.

Instructors from the Cooper Institute in Dallas, Texas, will soon be at the base to help people meet the standards. They will meet with unit fitness monitors to help make sure people pass.

"Cooper is one of the most renowned fitness centers in the country," Heller said. "Mr. Cooper is the man who invented aerobics. The Cooper classes will help people ramp up."



**TREADING ALONG** - Patriot Wing members CMSgt. Kathleen M. Wood, left, and MSgt. Lori D. Boucher work out on treadmills at the fitness center.

## Information and Internet access on fitness standards available for reservists

Reservists with access to the Internet can view the new fitness-scoring charts at [www.af.mil/news/USAF\\_Fitness\\_Charts.pdf](http://www.af.mil/news/USAF_Fitness_Charts.pdf).

The fitness center is open from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily; and from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends. The staff may be reached at Ext. 3958.

Other points of contact for information on the standards are squadron first sergeants and unit fitness monitors.

Reservists with medical concerns about meeting the new standards should call any physician at the 439<sup>th</sup> AMDS medical facility at Ext. 3565.

## Reservists take part in first concept of NBC operations exercise

Article and photo  
by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

A November UTA base exercise capped a year-long effort to transition the Air Force into a new way of handling nuclear, chemical, and biological (NBC) operations in a deployed environment for Patriot Wing members.

According Maj. Patrick S. Ryan, 439<sup>th</sup> AW executive officer, the wing began preparing for the exercise, held Nov. 2, by having the 439<sup>th</sup> Readiness Flight conduct training classes, first for its commanders, and then for everyone else from colonel to airman.

"This was an exercise to work out the kinks. A table top exercise to practice command and control was held in September, and we moved to the next level in November by exercising the entire base," Ryan said. "This concept of operations (CONOPS) is a departure from the previous 'shut down a whole base, recover a whole base' concept. Now, the focus is on only shutting down and decontaminating the effected areas, leaving unaffected areas free to continue to accomplish the mission."

Every unit on the base had several personnel participating in the exercise, especially mobility personnel and those individuals in UTC positions who would deploy during contingencies.

"This is the way the Air Force is doing business now – from Baghdad to Bagram," Ryan said. "It's important that our people understand these new concepts and are prepared when their boots land on foreign soil."

With this being the first exercise testing these new concepts, certain issues regarding accountability, knowing what to simulate and what to perform fully, and other minor command and control items will be examined and corrected with additional exercises. "While



**MAPPING IT OUT** - Maj. Pat Ryan (left), wing executive officer, details the entry control point location for sector India to other members of the wing staff.

no exercise is ever perfect, we can always catch and correct these minor items as they occur," Ryan said.

Similar to ability to survive and operate (ATSO) exercises, Ryan said CONOPS provides Air Force units a structured framework designed to minimize casualties and maximize mission effectiveness in NBC environments. "There is no part of an NBC attack that isn't stressful, but if we 'train the way we fight,' and become familiar with these new concepts, then, when called upon in a real-world mission, it will be second nature to each airman," he said.



photo by TSgt. Charmaine Mallett

**FINAL TRIP** - A crane operator places the 30,000-pound fuselage of a C-130B Hercules onto a tractor-trailer Oct. 29 for shipment from Westover. The fuselage, stored near the Dogpatch training area, was used by Westover aeromedical specialists and aerial porters until about three years ago, when it became a home for animals, as skunks and bees found their way into the aircraft, said

Hassell A. Frye, Westover traffic manager. An Arizona-based contractor also hauled the wings of the aircraft on another tractor-trailer. Because of the width of the C-130 fuselage, Frye said the truck drivers had to use Westover's main runway to depart through a gate on the civilian side of the base. The drivers transported the fuselage and wings to Nevada.



# Patriot Wing announces its yearly award winners

**Capt. Kenneth A. Parsons**, a C-5 flight instructor with the 337<sup>th</sup> AS, is the Officer of the Year. Parsons has been assigned to Westover since 1993.



**Parsons**



**Brainard**

**MSgt. Kenneth N. Brainard**, a command and navigation systems craftsman with the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight, is the Senior NCO of the Year.



**Moloney-Cook**

**TSgt. Eileen Moloney-Cook**, command and control craftsman with the 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF, is the NCO of the Year. She has been with the 439<sup>th</sup> AW for two years.



**Van Gorden**

Westover Fire Chief **Charles Van Gorden** is the Civilian Supervisor of the Year. Van Gorden has been fire chief since April, and a member of the fire department for eight years. This year, he was honored as Air

Force Reserve Command's Best Civilian Fire Officer.

**SrA. Nickolaus J. Schmitter**, a 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS jet engine mechanic, is the Airman of the Year. He has been assigned to AMXS since November 2000, and recently deployed to

AFB, Del., with nearly 100 other maintainers to support C-5 operations.



**Schmitter**

**Shelli A. McCarthy**, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS, is the Civilian Employee of the Year. Assigned to the squadron for three years, she is a medical administrative assistant and an air reserve

technician master sergeant with ASTS.



**McCarthy**

## Patriot Portraits

**C-5 TOUR – TSgt. Anthony G. Gambardella**, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS, explains the C-5 mission to a Boy Scout troop from Derby, Conn., on Nov. 1. AMXS hosted another Boy Scout tour on Oct. 25 at Westover. Both tours included visits to the flight line and the fire station.



*photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe*

**PRECISION CUT – MSgt. Jim Serra and SrA. Mike Gleason**, 439<sup>th</sup> CES structures shop, cut vinyl soffit for a base project.



*photo by MSgt. Anne Ward*



*photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe*

**A STEP ABOVE – Westover firefighter Brian Morris**, right, trains for the Air Force Reserve Command Firefighter Competition to be held next spring, as fellow firefighter Robert Fancy steadies his ladder. The firefighters will train through the fall and spring for the competition, scheduled to be held at Grissom ARB, Ind.

## When others need help, they call the 439th life support team

Article and photo  
by MSgt. Tom Allocco

The 18 members of aircrew life support are the people to turn to when wings need the help of an experienced, well-trained team.

After pulling plenty of extra duty here during the Iraqi Freedom surge, the Patriot Wing life support specialists are helping their counterparts at Willow Grove NAS, Pa.; Dover AFB, Del.; and Homestead ARB, Fla.

The life support specialists of the 439th Operations Support Squadron, supervised by SMSgt. Paul LaRochelle, inspect and maintain all the equipment that protects crew members' lives, from oxygen masks to chemical warfare suites to the rations, signaling equipment, radios and other gear that make up survival kits.

Their job is vital to the airlift mission. When the operations tempo picked up after 9/11 they, along with air crews, were among the first people activated here. During that round, aircrew life support was on active duty for a full year.

They are currently on their second activation of the War on Terrorism, which started at the beginning of the Iraqi Freedom surge last February.

Last June when the 913th Airlift Wing of Willow Grove needed help to train members



**OXYGEN CHECK -** SSgt. Paul Doyon, aircrew life support, double checks the functioning of an aircrew oxygen mask which is hooked up to a Scott Tester to simulate conditions at high altitude. The test is part of the inspection and maintenance done at the aircrew life support section in the Base Hangar.

in preparation for a staff assistance visit, they made the call to Westover.

Seven Patriot Wing members spent two weeks working with the C-130 life support specialists at the base near Philadelphia. During the deployment they also helped the 913th members combat configure the wing's

sions to the Middle East AOR.

The Westover life support team that went to Willow Grove consisted of LaRochelle, MSgts. David Guertin, Robert Majewski, and Paul Marsters, TSgts. Pamela Cutt and Kevin Pietrowski, and SSgt. Paul Doyon.

During August and September, two members served for 30 days with the active duty 436th AW at Dover AFB. TSgt. Dirk Diviney and SSgt. Bill Watson helped train an influx of new, inexperienced life support specialists at Dover.

Watson went to Homestead ARB in October for a tour of duty to help train Reservists who were preparing for a mobility exercise at the Florida base.

During the Iraqi Freedom spring and summer surge, aircrew life support went to around-the-clock operations. The specialists were on the flightline to inspect life support equipment on every C-5 that landed here throughout the grueling air bridge operations.

The deployments by the Patriot Wing teams to other bases has been a two-way learning experience. "I was glad to do it. They thanked us, gave us some things to put up on the wall for what we did," Doyon said.

More importantly, inspecting the performance of others who were preparing for their SAV gave the Westover specialists a new perspective. "It was a part of my job I hadn't seen before, being on the other side of an inspection. It'll definitely help our own unit out with the inspection coming up in March," Doyon said.



### Galaxy grand opening

The Galaxy Express store grand opening was held Oct. 14.

Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Rudy D'Amico, Col.

Wade Farris, 439th AW commander;

Luca Esposito, Lee Mendoza, Sharon

Giovinazzo, and her seeing eye dog,

Auggie. The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

operates the store, which stocks

supplies for offices on base.

photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope



# President Bush singles out former Westover reservist during speech

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When George W. Bush wanted to hold up an example of military service to the nation, he chose a former Patriot Wing aerial porter now serving in Baghdad.

MSgt. John "Jake" Negrotti was singled out for special attention from his commander in chief during a presidential visit to Pease ANGB, N.H. on Oct. 9. Negrotti is serving in Iraq as a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard.

Negrotti was among two Air Guard members named by Bush as making a difference in the Iraqi Freedom efforts to rebuild schools and hospitals and restore electricity.

"I am confident of victory because I know the character of our military – shown in people like Master Sergeant Jake Negrotti of Plaistow, New Hampshire," Bush said.

"He's volunteered for overseas deployments three times since September the 11th. He's served in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq. Right now, Jake is an airport manager at Baghdad Airport, helping make sure our military and humanitarian operations move ahead," the president said.

"People like Jake Negrotti are showing what it means to be a patriot and a citizen. We're honored to have Jake's wife, Donna, and his children, Alicia and Christopher, with us here today. Next time you talk to Jake, Donna, you tell him his president appreciates his service and his country is grateful."

Before joining the Air Guard, Negrotti served as an aerial porter at Westover and Hanscom AFB and later as a member of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight. During Desert Shield and Storm, he served in Saudi Arabia when the airlift control flight deployed to King Khalid Military City to organize the return of troops.

In his civilian life, he is an athletic fa-



photo by SrA. Mary Gallagher

**WESTOVER CONNECTION** - When President George W. Bush addressed a crowd at Pease ANGB, N.H., he made special mention of former Westover reservist MSgt. John "Jake" Negrotti, whose last assignment was with the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight.

cilities manager at Northeastern University.

Bush stopped at Pease to address military members on a trip to Manchester to speak to the Chamber of Commerce.

A number of Westover members received invitations to the Pease speech, including Lt. Col. Sally Nutt Morger, 439<sup>th</sup> AW Public Affairs Officer. As the commander-in-chief passed a reviewing line, she had the opportunity to present him a Westover coin in the name of all Patriot Wing members.

## Free tickets offered to military families at Blandford Ski Area

The Springfield, Mass., Ski Club's Blandford Ski area, just 30 minutes from Springfield, is offering a Military Family Ski Weekend from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1, 2004.

Free lift tickets will be available to all military personnel and their families Jan. 30 and 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Feb. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reservists need to bring their military IDs or family military IDs to the ticket window.

Ski and snowboard rentals and lessons are available at our regular guest rates. For more information, visit the club's web site at [www.skiblandford.org](http://www.skiblandford.org)



The Great New England Airshow, 1987

## The Great New England Airshow

is coming to  
Westover Air Reserve  
Base  
Aug. 14-15, 2004

### WILSON continued from Page 3

evaluator pilot and served as the 41<sup>st</sup> Flying Training Squadron assistant operations officer.

Wilson separated from active duty in June 2001 and joined the Air Force Reserve the following October. He has been activated continuously in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom serving as the 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS maintenance officer.

As the AMXS commander, Wilson is responsible for the organizational capability for launch, recovery, inspection and maintenance of the 16 assigned C-5A aircraft and all other C-5s that transit Westover ARB. He is also responsible for the capability to deploy maintenance teams to support C-5 aircraft maintenance op-

erations in hostile and non-hostile environments anywhere in the world.

Wilson resides in Simsbury, Conn., with his wife, Tammy. They have a daughter, Jordan, and are expecting their second child in December.

Allen praised his squadron's performance record during his remarks as outgoing commander. "You really make a positive difference in what you do, and you should really take great pride in everything that you do every day," he said. "With all that you have done you deserve the best commander there is, and you're about to get him. Mark will do an exceptional job for you."



# Depot says goodbye to C-141 signaling end of era

Article by 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson

Photos by Sue Sapp

AFRC Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** — In a ceremony complete with colorful nostalgic graffiti, a C-141 aircraft departed here Oct. 16 heading west to its new home at March Air Reserve Base, Calif.

The departure of tail number 65-0248 signaled the end of an era for C-141 Starlifters, which are scheduled to leave the Air Force inventory in 2006. The aircraft was the last C-141 to undergo programmed depot maintenance at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, which has performed this work 1,800 times on the transporters since 1972.

Robins AFB officials and employees said goodbye to tail number 65-0248 in a special roll-out ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, WR-ALC commander.

For nearly 40 years since its introduction in the Air Force in 1964, the C-141, built by Lockheed Marietta, has flown millions of miles and moved millions of tons of personnel and cargo.

Known as the “workhorse” of the Air Mobility Command, the Starlifter fulfills the vast spectrum of airlift requirements through its ability to airlift combat forces over long distances, deliver those forces and their equipment either by air, land or airdrop, resupply forces and transport the sick and wounded from the hostile area to advanced medical facilities.

Over the years, the C-141 has undergone a number of changes. The fuselage was stretched more than 23 feet and an in-flight refueling capability was added to create the “B” model. At Robins, weep hole modifications and center wing box repairs are considered the system program office’s finest hour. Later, a glass cockpit was included with some aircraft along with new fuel quantity and airlift defensive systems.

At the farewell ceremony, the logistics center commander said how proud he is of what the C-141 workers have done this year. “A lot of people around the Air Force had given up on the C-141 program depot maintenance program, but over the last two years you’ve gone from 17 percent of on-time aircraft to 64 percent on-time and that is impressive,” the general said.

Also on hand to give appreciation to the work force was Brig. Gen. Robert Lytle, Air Force Reserve Command assistant vice commander.

“The C-141 is being turned over to people who care about it just



**Tail No. 65-0248 departs Oct. 16 following a ceremony to mark the end of C-141 maintenance. The Air Force expects to phase the aircraft out of its inventory in 2006.**

as much as Robins, people who have been working on the aircraft since it rolled off the assembly line in the mid 1960s,” Lytle said. “A lot of them will receive it and take care of it just like you did. They care about it. They love it; their personality and life are wrapped up in that iron whether they are the aviator, the maintainer or the supply technician.”

Lytle, a pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours, said he has learned to appreciate the team that keeps the aircraft going. “You produced a quality product on time and ahead of schedule with fewer defects than you were doing last year, and I applaud you for that,” Lytle said.

Piloting the aircraft to March ARB was Lt. Col. J.C. Clemons, who said he felt a sense of pride sitting at the helm on the final flight.

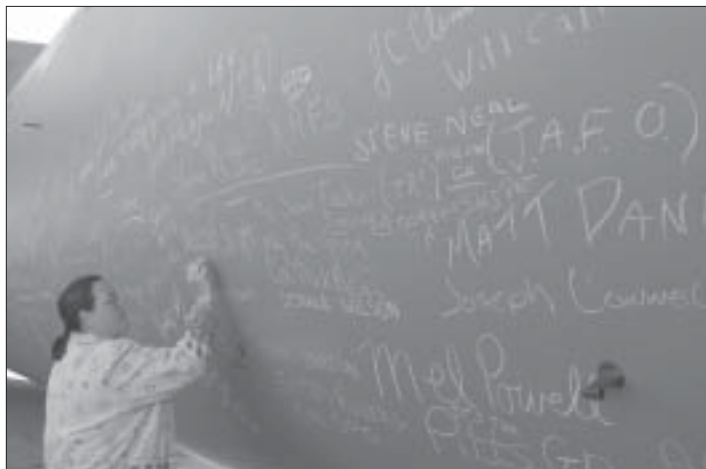
“It’s a great accomplishment to fly the last Starlifter from Robins to March, but it is also a sad day,” Clemons said. “We can only find comfort in the fact that for the next couple of years we can on occasion, look up and see a C-141 flying overhead still supporting the war fighter in an aircraft that we produced here at the Warner Robins ALC.”

About 50 C-141 aircraft remain in the Air Force inventory compared to a high of 284 aircraft during its heyday. The system program office workers averaged 60-70 program depot maintenance aircraft yearly with a surge of 90 per year during the early 1990s.

Logistics support personnel will continue to work with the C-141 until its final retirement. Many of the employees have already been absorbed into different aircraft program depot maintenance lines, including the C-17.

Only two Reserve units continue to fly and maintain unit-equipped C-141s — the 452nd Air Mobility Wing at March ARB and the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Both units are scheduled to convert to other airlift missions in the near future.

All C-141s at March will either be replaced or in the replacement stage with C-17s at the end of 2005. All C-141s will be replaced at the end of 2006. (AFRC News Service from the *Robins Rev-Up*)



**Tammy Bartlett, a former C-141 records clerk for almost nine years, signs the final C-141 Starlifter aircraft to go through programmed depot maintenance at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, Ga.**

***“They care about it. They love it; their personality and life are wrapped up in that iron whether they are the aviator, the maintainer or the supply technician.”***

***- Brig. Gen. Robert Lytle, Air Force Reserve Command assistant vice commander***

# 439th Airlift Wing honors veterans

**ENGRAVED IN STONE** - The ceremony took place around a permanent marble marker that reads "Dedicated to the memory of the deceased members of the 439th Airlift Wing."



**FOLDING IN HONOR** - Base Honor Guard members MSgt. Thomas Roe and SrA. Mary Gallagher fold Old Glory during the Nov. 1 ceremony at the base ellipse that honored Westover veterans.

- photos by MSgt. W.C. Pope



**FORMATION** - A formation of reservists, made up of airmen from all units on base, stands at parade rest during the ceremony.



**TAPS** - TSgt. Stephen Adamczyk, 439th AMXS, plays in solemn tribute.



## Patriot People

**Name:** Tarann M. Loranger  
**Rank:** SrA.  
**Age:** 25  
**Address:** Springfield, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th Communications Squadron  
**Position:** Orderly room technician  
**Civilian position:** Stay-at-home mom  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Years of service:** Three  
**Favorite sports:** Football  
**Favorite hobbies:** Scrapbooking  
**Ideal vacation:** Cancun with the hubby  
**Best way to relax:** Play with my son  
**Preferred entertainment:** Watch movies  
**Favorite heroes:** My dad  
**Favorite music styles:** Godsmack  
**Favorite movie:** "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"  
**Favorite aircraft:** F-16  
**Pet peeve:** Bad drivers  
**What would I do if I won \$1 million:** Build a house and buy a Viper



photo by SrA. Tom Ouellette

SrA. Tarann M. Loranger

## Patriot Praises

### Enlistments:

TSgt. Chadbourne, Stephen L.  
 SSgt. Farrell, Desmond E.  
 SSgt. Wironen, Michael J.  
 A1C Duncan, Akili-Abdul H.  
 A1C Fletcher, Philip M.  
 A1C Folts, Amber J.  
 A1C Liu, Weifeng  
 A1C Nieves, Edgard  
 A1C Policastro, Page R.  
 A1C Ramirez, Cristian V.  
 A1C Rushton, Michael A.  
 A1C Stelma, Randall W.  
 A1C Williams, Mark E.  
 A1C Wint, Terry A., Jr.

Amn. Madia, Brian J.  
 AB George, Alana S.M.  
 AB Mueller, Myles J.

### Reenlistments:

SMSgt. Marrone, Michael J.  
 SMSgt. Michon, Sandra M.  
 MSgt. Colucci, Linda S.  
 MSgt. Gagnon, Paul J.  
 MSgt. Kida, Stephen E.  
 MSgt. Motley, Robert R.  
 MSgt. Olbrys, Peter J.  
 MSgt. Pope, William C.  
 MSgt. Thomas, Michael J.  
 MSgt. Turpin, Richard W.

MSgt. Valliere, David A.  
 TSgt. Brown, William J.  
 TSgt. Chadbourne, Stephen L.  
 TSgt. Gilzinger, Steven P.  
 TSgt. Hoagland, Matthew S.  
 TSgt. Overton, Elisa M.  
 TSgt. Ritchie, John F.  
 TSgt. Rivera, Jose O.  
 TSgt. Walker, Mark A.  
 TSgt. Wesoloskie, Todd R.  
 SSgt. Farrell, Desmond E.  
 SSgt. Harris, Raymond D.  
 SSgt. Noury, James Richard  
 SSgt. Phelps, Ronald C.  
 SSgt. Swedock, Ava M.  
 SSgt. Weaver, Jason J.

SSgt. Wironen, Michael J.  
 SrA. Ben, Sky  
 SrA. Lembo, Brian W.

### Reassignments:

Capt. Houle, Lisa B.  
 Capt. Melvin, David J.  
 SSgt. Williams, Andrew D.  
 SrA. Shepard, Jonathan M.  
 SrA. Yong, Billy M.H.

### Retired:

CMSgt. Defazio, Frances A.  
 SMSgt. Groeber, William D.

### Thirty Years of Federal Service:

Bender, Barbara  
 Drenthe, Henri M.  
 Dzwonkus, Thomas V.  
 Hillebrand, James B.  
 Lavigne, Kenneth R.  
 Major, Michael A.

### NCO Academy Graduate:

SSgt. Garcia, Richard

## Patriot Puns

by MSgt. W.C. Pope

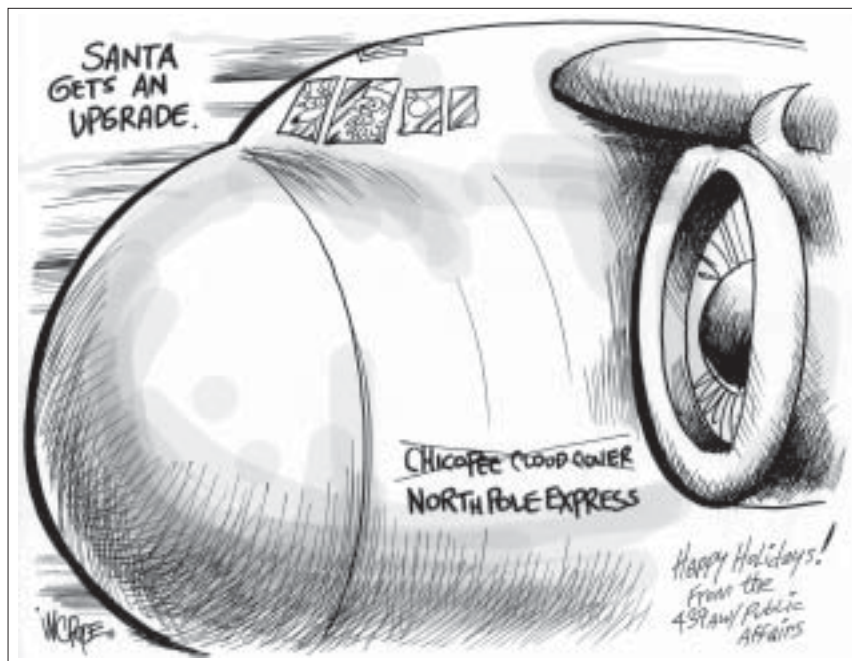
## Holiday food baskets available through USO; pewter ornaments on sale

Holiday food baskets are available first come, first serve to military members experiencing financial hardships.

Sign-up is at the Pioneer Valley USO in Bldg. 1100, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays of the A and B UTA from 12-4 p.m..

The USO staff is holding a fund-raiser. Pewter C-5 ornaments and key chains are for sale. Ornaments are \$15 and key chains are \$10. For more information, call the USO at Ext. 3290 or the family support staff at Ext. 3024, in Bldg. 1100.

Bldg. 1100 is located near the ellipse on Walker Avenue.



# Annual Turkey Trot draws dozens of runners, walkers

by SrA. Tom Ouellette

More than three dozen runners and walkers competed in the Patriot Wing's Annual Turkey Trot during the November A UTA.



photo by SrA. Tom Ouellette

**WINNING STRIDE** - Thomas Mauzaka, special assistant to the wing commander, was the winner in his age group.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

**COLD TURKEY** - More than 35 runners and walkers head out into the November cold at the start of the Turkey Trot. Winners in each category received Thanksgiving turkeys.

This year's race, held Nov. 2, featured 16 different categories, challenging athletes to test their speed and stamina in either the 3-mile or 5-mile events. The athletes were placed in their respective categories based on their gender, age, distance of the race, and style (walk or run). The top finisher in each category won the traditional prize of a Thanksgiving turkey.

In the 5-mile run, Rodney Furr led all males with the best overall time of 25:31.

Stephanie Granger proved to be the fastest female, finishing with a time of 33:54.

The 3-mile run had its share of challengers and close competition, yet John Leach edged out all contenders posting the fastest time at 19:05 against the males.

The women's 3-mile race came down to a photo finish, with Lori Campbell edging out her daughter, Mary, by a mere two seconds. Nevertheless, Campbell's time of 24:10 made her the fastest woman overall in the 3-mile run.

## Other Turkey Trot winners

Twelve other Patriot Wing members earned their turkeys by winning in various categories. They were: Lisa Cook, Dirk Dufresne, Cathy Gerberth, Michelle Greene, Ed Greenwood, Celio Hernandez, Barbara Jackson, Bruce LaMay, Lana Lue, Thomas Mauzaka, Patrick Ryan, and Kathleen Wood.

**PATRIOT**

[www.afrc.af.mil/439aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw)

December UTA schedule

A UTA Dec. 6-7

No B UTA



439th AW/PA  
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE  
100 Lloyd Street  
East Wing, Suite 103  
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like TSgt. Tiffany L. Mason, Mansfield, Conn., and 2,485 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.